

[0018]

An apparatus and method for controlling equipment in response to a proximity signal from one or more chips and sensors for detecting proximity of an individual with respect to a manufacturing device. A chip can be retained by an individual and a sensor can be mounted on the manufacturing device. When the individual retaining the chip comes into a predetermined proximity with the sensor, the sensor can emit a signal. The signal can be received by an electric control device for disengaging operation of the machine or for placing the machine in a safe mode in response to the signal. The chip and the signal can interact in a first manner where the chip emits a signal receivable by the sensor. Alternatively, the chip and sensor can interact where the sensor emits a signal creating a field for identifying when a chip enters the signal generated field.